



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 486

February Session, 2026

Substitute Senate Bill No. 497

Senate, April 7, 2026

The Committee on Human Services reported through SEN. LESSER of the 9th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT PROVIDING FOOD SECURITY FOR VETERANS,
TRANSITIONAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE FOR OTHER PERSONS
AFFECTED BY FEDERAL PROGRAM CUTS, A FOOD AS MEDICINE
WAIVER PROGRAM, MEALS ON WHEELS PROVIDER RATE
INCREASES AND ALIGNING NUTRITION ASSISTANCE
APPLICATIONS WITH FEDERAL REGULATIONS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) There is established an account to be
2 known as the supplemental nutrition assistance transitional benefit
3 account, which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account. The account
4 shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account.
5 Moneys in the account shall be expended by the Department of Social
6 Services solely for the purposes of operating the Supplemental
7 Nutrition Assistance Transitional Benefit Program established pursuant
8 to section 4 of this act.

9 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) Notwithstanding the provisions of
10 sections 3 and 4 of special act 26-1, for the fiscal year ending June 30,
11 2027, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall transfer

12 forty million dollars from the Federal Cuts Response Fund, established
13 pursuant to section 1 of special act 26-1, to the supplemental nutrition
14 assistance transitional benefit account established pursuant to section 1
15 of this act.

16 Sec. 3. Section 17b-105a of the general statutes is repealed and the
17 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

18 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall seek a waiver from
19 federal law to allow persons who live in an area in which (1) the
20 unemployment rate is greater than ten per cent, or (2) there is an
21 insufficient number of jobs to provide such persons with employment,
22 to be exempt from the three-month participation limit of the
23 supplemental nutrition assistance program implemented pursuant to
24 the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.

25 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall implement vehicle
26 evaluation provisions in accordance with 7 CFR 273.8(f)(4).

27 (c) The Commissioner of Social Services, pursuant to 7 USC
28 2014(e)(6), shall implement the federal option to mandate the use of a
29 standard utility allowance, to be used in place of actual utility costs, for
30 purposes of calculating the excess shelter deduction of applicants for, or
31 recipients of, supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits.
32 Pursuant to 7 USC 2014(e)(6)(C)(iii)(III), the commissioner shall not
33 prorate a standard utility allowance based upon the fact that an assisted
34 household shares the utility with an individual who is not a member of
35 the assisted household.

36 (d) Not later than December 31, 2024, the Commissioner of Social
37 Services shall enter into a contract with an outside vendor to update the
38 system utilized by the Department of Social Services to administer the
39 supplemental nutrition assistance program for the purpose of enabling
40 the department to stagger the distribution of program benefits so that
41 benefits are distributed, in accordance with federal law, to cohorts of
42 program beneficiaries designated by the commissioner at multiple
43 intervals during each month. Not later than March 1, 2026, the

44 commissioner shall commence staggering the distribution of such
45 benefits to such cohorts of beneficiaries each month, in accordance with
46 federal law. Not later than April 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the
47 commissioner shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section
48 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
49 cognizance of matters relating to human services regarding the
50 staggering of distribution benefits pursuant to this subsection.

51 (e) The Commissioner of Social Services shall provide a veteran, as
52 defined in section 27-103, with the same level of supplemental nutrition
53 assistance program benefits such otherwise eligible veteran received or
54 would have received before federal work requirements for the program
55 were changed pursuant to P.L. 119-21, irrespective of whether such
56 veteran is able to meet such work requirements.

57 Sec. 4. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section, "vulnerable
58 person" includes, but is not limited to, (1) a homeless person or person
59 at risk of homelessness, (2) an adult diagnosed with autism spectrum
60 disorder who is not otherwise classified as disabled, (3) a young adult
61 aging out of the foster care system, (4) an adult who is a caretaker for a
62 child between the ages of fourteen and eighteen, (5) a person age fifty-
63 five to sixty-four, inclusive, and (6) an asylee, refugee or other
64 immigrant with a visa or pending visa based on such immigrant's status
65 as a victim of human trafficking or domestic violence.

66 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall establish a
67 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Transitional Benefit Program for
68 vulnerable persons at risk of losing supplemental nutrition assistance
69 pursuant to changes in federal work requirements and eligibility under
70 P.L. 119-21. Such assistance shall include (1) benefits of not less than one
71 hundred ninety-four dollars per month for a period of not more than
72 twelve months, (2) access to job training, and (3) case management to
73 help document compliance by otherwise eligible vulnerable persons
74 with work requirements or eligibility for federal exemptions to the work
75 requirements.

76 (c) In implementing the program, the Commissioner of Social

77 Services shall:

78 (1) Inform program beneficiaries about the work requirements and
79 other eligibility changes;

80 (2) In consultation with the Labor Commissioner, provide vulnerable
81 persons with access to job training programs;

82 (3) Implement systems to verify work hours, potential federal
83 exemptions from the requirements and documentation from vulnerable
84 persons subject to the new work requirements;

85 (4) Identify and assist vulnerable persons with unstable employment
86 or health barriers; and

87 (5) Expeditiously resolve eligibility issues to prevent prolonged
88 benefit loss.

89 (d) A vulnerable person shall be eligible for transitional assistance
90 under the program if such person (1) is described in subdivisions (1) to
91 (5), inclusive, of subsection (a) of this section and is (A) working, (B)
92 enrolled in a workforce program, (C) demonstrating an active job search
93 in accordance with requirements prescribed by the Commissioner of
94 Social Services, or (D) awaiting verification or documentation of (i)
95 meeting the work requirements, or (ii) qualifying for a federal
96 exemption from the work requirements, or (2) is an asylee, refugee or
97 other immigrant described in subdivision (6) of subsection (a) of this
98 section. A vulnerable person otherwise eligible for the supplemental
99 nutrition assistance program shall be required to reenroll in the program
100 once such person is able to complete the work requirements.

101 (e) The Commissioner of Social Services, to the extent permissible
102 under federal law, shall limit the lookback period for compliance with
103 federal work requirements for the supplemental nutrition assistance
104 program to one month and may accept (1) written income verification
105 from a vulnerable person's employer if such person is paid in cash, or
106 (2) self-attested information from a vulnerable person experiencing
107 homelessness.

108 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section, (1)
109 "food as medicine" has the same meaning as provided in section 17b-
110 790c of the general statutes, (2) "chronic health conditions" means
111 conditions that include, but are not limited to, prediabetes, gestational
112 diabetes and types 1 and 2 diabetes, heart disease, including
113 hypertension, hypercholesterol, dyslipidemia and congestive heart
114 failure, food allergies, celiac disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary
115 disease, renal disease and obesity, (3) "health care provider" means a
116 physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse,
117 certified dietitian-nutritionist or certified diabetes educator licensed or
118 certified to practice in the state, and (4) "produce prescription" means a
119 prescription for fruits and vegetables without added salt, sugar or fat
120 given to a Medicaid beneficiary with chronic health conditions by a
121 health care provider.

122 (b) Not later than October 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Social
123 Services shall seek federal approval for a Medicaid waiver under Section
124 1115 of the Social Security Act for a three-year pilot program to provide
125 produce prescriptions and nutritional counseling under a food as
126 medicine program for Medicaid beneficiaries with chronic health
127 conditions. The commissioner may provide such beneficiary with
128 vouchers or an electronic debit card restricted to the purchase of a
129 produce prescription.

130 (c) Not later than January 15, 2027, January 15, 2028, and January 15,
131 2029, the commissioner shall file an annual report, in accordance with
132 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, with the joint
133 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
134 matters relating to human services on (1) the number of Medicaid
135 beneficiaries who have received produce prescriptions under the pilot
136 program, (2) data regarding the effect produce prescriptions have on the
137 health of such beneficiaries, including, but not limited to, indicators
138 such as blood sugar levels, blood pressure and serum lipids, (3) the
139 effect of the pilot program on ranges of food insecurity, as measured by
140 the United States Department of Agriculture, and (4) the cost to the state
141 to provide Medicaid reimbursement for such prescriptions compared to

142 any savings generated by improved health outcomes for such enrollees.
143 The commissioner shall share aggregated data on food insecurity
144 among pilot program participants with organizations that track data on
145 food insecurity and connect food insecure persons with nutritional
146 assistance.

147 Sec. 6. Section 17b-112d of the general statutes is repealed and the
148 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

149 A person convicted of any offense under federal or state law, on or
150 after August 22, 1996, which (1) is classified as a felony, and (2) has as
151 an element the possession, use or distribution of a controlled substance,
152 as defined in Subsection (6) of 21 USC 802, shall be eligible for benefits
153 pursuant to the temporary assistance for needy families program or the
154 supplemental nutrition assistance program pursuant to the Food and
155 Nutrition Act of 2008, if such person has completed a sentence imposed
156 by a court. A person shall also be eligible for said benefits if such person
157 is [satisfactorily] serving a sentence of a period of probation or is in the
158 process of completing or has completed a sentence imposed by the court
159 of mandatory participation in a substance abuse treatment program or
160 mandatory participation in a substance abuse testing program.

161 Sec. 7. Section 17b-105c of the general statutes is repealed and the
162 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

163 The Commissioner of Social Services, in accordance with federal law,
164 may implement policy to simplify program administration and increase
165 payment accuracy in the supplemental nutrition assistance program,
166 while in the process of adopting such policy as regulation, provided
167 notice of such policy is published in the Connecticut Law Journal within
168 twenty days of implementation. The commissioner shall align
169 applications for federal supplemental nutrition assistance with 7 CFR
170 273.11(n) and remove any requirement that an applicant attest that such
171 applicant does not have a probation or parole violation.

172 Sec. 8. Section 17b-343 of the general statutes is repealed and the
173 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

174 The Commissioner of Social Services shall establish annually the
175 maximum allowable rate to be paid by agencies for homemaker
176 services, chore person services, companion services, respite care, meals
177 on wheels, adult day care services, case management and assessment
178 services, transportation, mental health counseling and elderly foster
179 care. The Commissioner of Social Services shall prescribe uniform forms
180 on which agencies providing such services shall report their costs for
181 such services. Such rates shall be determined on the basis of a reasonable
182 payment for necessary services rendered. The maximum allowable rates
183 established by the Commissioner of Social Services for the Connecticut
184 home-care program for the elderly established under section 17b-342
185 shall constitute the rates required under this section until revised in
186 accordance with this section. The Commissioner of Social Services shall
187 establish a fee schedule, to be effective on and after July 1, 1994, for
188 homemaker services, chore person services, companion services, respite
189 care, meals on wheels, adult day care services, case management and
190 assessment services, transportation, mental health counseling and
191 elderly foster care. The commissioner may annually increase the fee
192 schedule based on an increase in the cost of services. The commissioner
193 shall increase the fee schedule effective July 1, 2000, by not less than five
194 per cent, for adult day care services. The commissioner shall increase the
195 fee schedule effective July 1, 2011, by four dollars per person, per day
196 for adult day care services. The commissioner shall increase the fee
197 schedule effective July 1, 2019, for meals on wheels by ten per cent over
198 the fee schedule for meals on wheels for the previous fiscal year.
199 Effective July 1, [2020] 2026, and annually thereafter, the commissioner
200 [may] shall increase the fee schedule for meals on wheels providers
201 serving participants in the Connecticut home-care program for the
202 elderly by, at a minimum, the cost-of-living adjustment as measured by
203 the consumer price index. The commissioner may increase any fee
204 payable to a meals on wheels provider upon the application of such
205 provider evidencing extraordinary costs related to delivery of meals on
206 wheels in sparsely populated rural regions of the state. Nothing
207 contained in this section shall authorize a payment by the state to any
208 agency for such services in excess of the amount charged by such agency

209 for such services to the general public.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	17b-105a
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	17b-112d
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	17b-105c
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	17b-343

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

The title was changed; in Section 4(c) "commissioner" was changed to "Commissioner of Social Services" for clarity and Section 4(d) was redrafted for clarity.

HS *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
State Resources	SF - Transfer from	\$40 million	None
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Transfer to	\$40 million	None
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Cost	\$2.1 million	335,000
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Revenue Gain	375,000	None

Note: SF=Special Fund (Non-appropriated); GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Sections 1 and 2 establish the supplemental nutrition assistance transitional benefit account and require the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to transfer \$40 million from the Federal Cuts Response Fund to said account. The Department of Social Services (DSS) will administer this account to support the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Transitional Benefit Program, established in section 4 of the bill.

Sections 3 and 4 result in administrative costs to DSS of approximately \$1.2 million in FY 27 associated with modifying the eligibility and benefit system for participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Transitional Benefit Program. DSS may incur additional costs to the extent increased staff are needed to support the program. For context, the annual salary for eligibility staff typically ranges from approximately \$63,5000 to \$96,000, depending on the

position.

Section 3 requires DSS to maintain supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) benefits to veterans who would otherwise lose such benefits due to work requirements under P.L. 119-21, effective 7/1/26. Based on May 2025 enrollment data, there were approximately 300 veterans that may be impacted by such work requirements. Assuming an average benefit of \$194, benefits costs for this group would total approximately \$58,200 per month.

Section 4 requires DSS to establish a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Transitional Benefit Program for vulnerable persons at risk of losing SNAP due to changes in federal work requirements and eligibility under P.L. 119-21. Assistance must include (1) benefits of \$194 per month for a period of not more than 12 months, (2) access to job training, and (3) case management to help document compliance with work requirements or eligibility for federal exemptions. The bill requires DSS to limit the lookback period for SNAP work requirements to one month and allows for written verification from employers who pay in cash and self-attestation if experiencing homelessness.

For context, initial estimates of the number of individuals potentially impacted by changes in SNAP eligibility requirements totaled 36,000 (including but not limited to veterans, those experiencing homelessness, and households with children under age 18). If everyone in this group were deemed eligible to receive the \$194 monthly benefit under the bill, it would result in a monthly cost of \$7 million.

Section 5 results in a cost to DSS associated with applying for an 1115 Medicaid waiver to provide Medicaid coverage for food as medicine through a pilot program. DSS will incur costs of approximately \$750,000 for contractual support to develop the waiver, with an associated federal grants revenue gain of \$375,000. The state will also incur programmatic costs to support the three-year pilot program to provide produce prescriptions and nutritional counseling under a food as medicine program for Medicaid beneficiaries with chronic health conditions. The commissioner may provide such beneficiary with vouchers or an

electronic debit card restricted to the purchase of a produce prescription. The extent of such costs depends on the scope and structure of the pilot program.

Section 6 removes the requirement that people serving a probation sentence be doing so “satisfactorily” to be eligible for TFA and SNAP benefits. To the extent this enables an individual to receive benefits sooner than they otherwise would have, DSS will incur TFA costs. For context the average TFA benefit per person is approximately \$250. It is assumed any additional SNAP benefit costs would be covered by federal funds.

Section 7 results in a cost to DSS associated with modifying applications for individuals receiving federal SNAP benefits. DSS will incur costs to print paper applications and may incur system costs to modify the online application.

Section 8 results in a cost of at least \$145,000 in FY 27 and \$158,000 in FY 28 associated with requiring rather than allowing DSS to increase the fee schedule for meals on wheels providers serving participants in the Connecticut Home Care Program, effective 7/1/26. Current law allows DSS to provide increases at least equal to cost of living adjustments as measured by the consumer price index. DSS will incur additional costs of approximately \$177,000 in FY 28 associated with the 7/1/27 COLA.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation as well as participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Transitional Benefit Program.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 497*****AN ACT PROVIDING FOOD SECURITY FOR VETERANS, TRANSITIONAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE FOR OTHER PERSONS AFFECTED BY FEDERAL PROGRAM CUTS, A FOOD AS MEDICINE WAIVER PROGRAM, MEALS ON WHEELS PROVIDER RATE INCREASES AND ALIGNING NUTRITION ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS WITH FEDERAL REGULATIONS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill makes several changes to laws affecting nutritional assistance programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Principally, it:

1. establishes the SNAP transitional benefit account and transfers \$40 million dollars to the account from the Federal Cuts Response Fund (§§ 1 & 2);
2. requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to establish a SNAP Transitional Benefit Program to help certain people at risk of losing benefits under P.L. 119-21 (see below) (§ 4);
3. requires DSS to give veterans the same level of SNAP benefits as they would have received before P.L. 119-21 (§ 3);
4. requires DSS to seek a Medicaid waiver for a three-year pilot program to give produce prescriptions (certain prescriptions for fruits and vegetables) and nutritional counseling to Medicaid enrollees with chronic health conditions (§ 5);
5. removes a requirement that people serving a probation sentence be doing so “satisfactorily” to qualify for SNAP or Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) benefits and requires DSS to eliminate requirements on SNAP applications for applicants to attest that they do not have a probation or parole violation (§§ 6 & 7); and

6. requires, rather than allows, DSS to annually increase meals-on-wheels provider rates for the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (CHCPE) (§ 8).

P.L. 119-21, the federal FY 25 Reconciliation Law (commonly referred to as H.R. 1 or the One Big Beautiful Bill Act) included several provisions affecting SNAP, including expanding SNAP work requirements, and making certain immigrant groups ineligible for the program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, except the food as medicine provision is effective upon passage.

§§ 1, 2, & 4 — SNAP TRANSITIONAL BENEFITS

SNAP Transitional Benefit Account

The bill establishes the SNAP transitional benefit account as a separate, nonlapsing account and requires DSS to spend funds in the account to operate the SNAP Transitional Benefit Program the bill establishes.

The bill requires the Office of Policy and Management to transfer \$40 million from the Federal Cuts Response Fund to the SNAP transitional benefit account for FY 27.

Program Eligibility

The bill requires DSS to establish a SNAP Transitional Benefit Program for vulnerable people at risk of losing SNAP due to changes in federal work requirements and eligibility under P.L. 119-21. Under the bill, a “vulnerable person” includes:

1. a homeless person or someone at risk of homelessness;
2. an adult diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder who is not otherwise classified as disabled;
3. a young adult aging out of the foster care system;
4. an adult who is a caretaker for a child between the ages of 14 and 18;

5. a person aged 55 to 64 years; and
6. an asylee, refugee, or other immigrant with a visa or pending visa based on human trafficking or domestic violence victim status.

The bill generally makes vulnerable persons eligible for transitional assistance under the program, but it sets additional requirements for certain vulnerable persons to be eligible for this assistance. Specifically, other than asylees, refugees, and immigrants with victim status, the bill requires vulnerable persons to be:

1. working or enrolled in a workforce program,
2. demonstrating an active job search consistent with DSS requirements, or
3. awaiting verification or documentation of work requirements or federal exemption from them.

The bill requires a vulnerable person to re-enroll in SNAP once he or she is able to complete the work-related requirements.

Program Benefits

SNAP transitional benefits must include:

1. at least \$194 per month for up to 12 months,
2. access to job training, and
3. case management to help an otherwise eligible vulnerable person document compliance with work requirements or eligibility for federal exemptions to work requirements.

Program Implementation

The bill requires DSS, when implementing the program, to:

1. inform program beneficiaries about work requirements and other eligibility changes;

2. provide, in consultation with the labor commissioner, access to job training programs for vulnerable people;
3. implement systems to verify work hours, potential federal exemptions from requirements, and documentation from vulnerable people subject to the new work requirements;
4. identify and help vulnerable people with unstable employment or health barriers; and
5. expeditiously resolve eligibility issues to prevent prolonged benefit loss.

SNAP Program Work Requirements

To the extent federal law allows, the bill requires the DSS commissioner to limit to one month the lookback period for federal work requirement compliance. It allows her to accept (1) written income verification from a vulnerable person's employer if the person is paid in cash or (2) self-attested information from a vulnerable person experiencing homelessness.

§ 3 — NUTRITIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS

The bill requires the DSS commissioner to give veterans the same level of SNAP benefits as they received or would have received before P.L 119-21 changed SNAP work requirements. The bill requires DSS to provide this assistance irrespective of whether the veteran meets work requirements. (Presumably, if the veteran meets federal work requirements, benefits are provided under the federal SNAP program. The bill does not specify a program or funding source for benefits if the veteran does not meet federal work requirements.)

By law, a veteran is any person who was discharged or released under conditions that were not dishonorable from active service in the armed forces.

§ 5 — FOOD AS MEDICINE PILOT PROGRAM

The bill requires DSS to seek a federal § 1115 Medicaid demonstration

waiver for a three-year pilot food as medicine program for Medicaid enrollees with chronic health conditions.

Pilot Program Eligibility

The bill requires the pilot program to provide services to Medicaid enrollees with chronic health conditions, which include:

1. prediabetes, gestational diabetes, and types 1 and 2 diabetes;
2. heart disease, including hypertension, hyper-cholesterol, dyslipidemia, and congestive heart failure;
3. food allergies;
4. celiac disease;
5. chronic obstructive pulmonary disease;
6. renal disease; and
7. obesity.

Pilot Program Benefits

Under the bill, the program provides produce prescriptions and nutritional counseling. “Produce prescriptions” are a prescription for fruits and vegetables without added salt, sugar, or fat given to a Medicaid beneficiary with chronic health conditions by a health care provider (a physician, physician’s assistant, APRN, certified dietitian-nutritionist, or certified diabetes educator).

The bill authorizes DSS to give the pilot program participants vouchers or electronic debit cards restricted to produce prescription purchases.

Reporting and Data Sharing

The bill requires DSS to submit three annual reports to the Human Services Committee, due on January 15 in 2027, 2028, and 2029. The reports must include:

1. how many Medicaid enrollees received produce prescriptions under the pilot program;
2. data on the effect the prescriptions had on Medicaid enrollees' health, including indicators such as blood sugar levels, blood pressure, and serum lipids;
3. the pilot program's effect on food insecurity ranges, as measured by the United States Department of Agriculture; and
4. state costs to provide Medicaid reimbursement for produce prescriptions, compared to any savings generated by participants' improved health outcomes.

The bill requires DSS to share aggregated data on pilot program participant food insecurity with organizations that track data on food security and connect people who are food insecure to nutritional assistance.

§§ 6 & 7 — PROBATION COMPLETION AND PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

By law, people convicted of certain state and federal felony offenses are generally eligible for SNAP and TFA benefits if they have completed their court sentence. Under current law, if the person is serving a period of probation as part of their sentence and is doing so satisfactorily, he or she is eligible for SNAP and TFA benefits. The bill removes the requirement that people on probation be serving "satisfactorily" in order to qualify for benefits.

The bill also requires the DSS commissioner to remove any requirement that a SNAP applicant attest that he or she does not have a probation or parole violation on the SNAP application.

Additionally, the bill requires DSS to align applications with federal regulations excluding probation or parole violators from SNAP eligible households. Under these regulations, to be considered a probation or parole violator, a state-designated impartial party must determine that the person violated a state or federal probation or parole condition, or

local law enforcement authorities are actively seeking the person to enforce probation or parole conditions. The state must continue to process a SNAP application while awaiting verification of probation or parole violator status (7 C.F.R. § 273.11).

§ 8 — CHCPE MEALS-ON-WHEELS RATES

Starting July 1, 2026, the bill requires, rather than allows, the DSS commissioner to annually increase the fee schedule for meals-on-wheels providers in CHCPE. Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, any annual increase to the fee schedule must be by at least the cost-of-living adjustment as measured by the consumer price index.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 15 Nay 8 (03/19/2026)